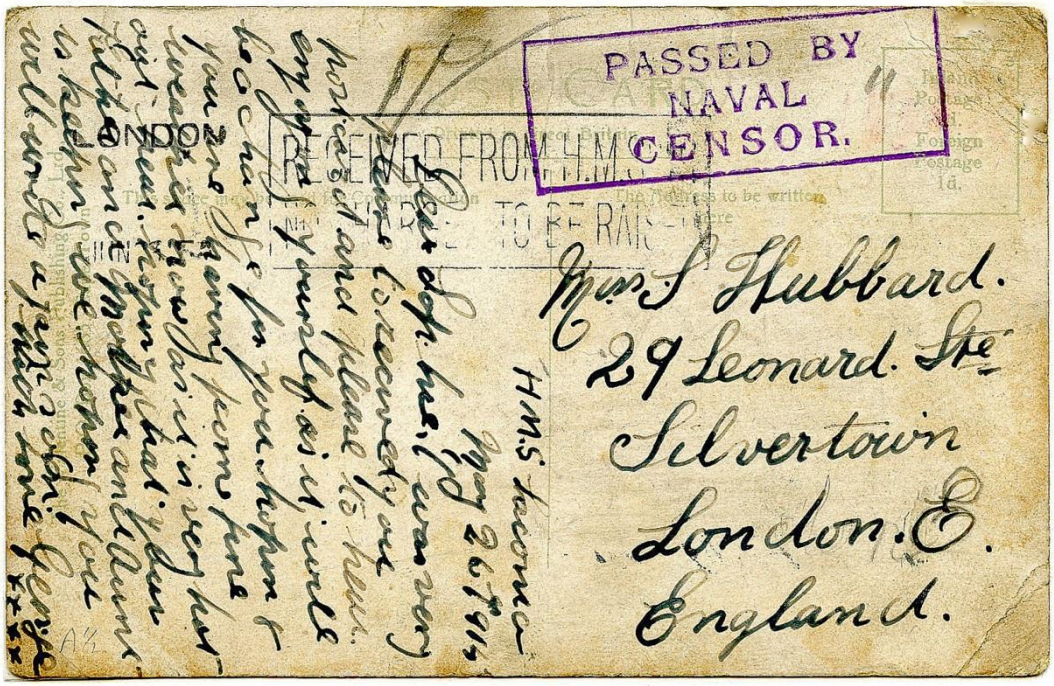
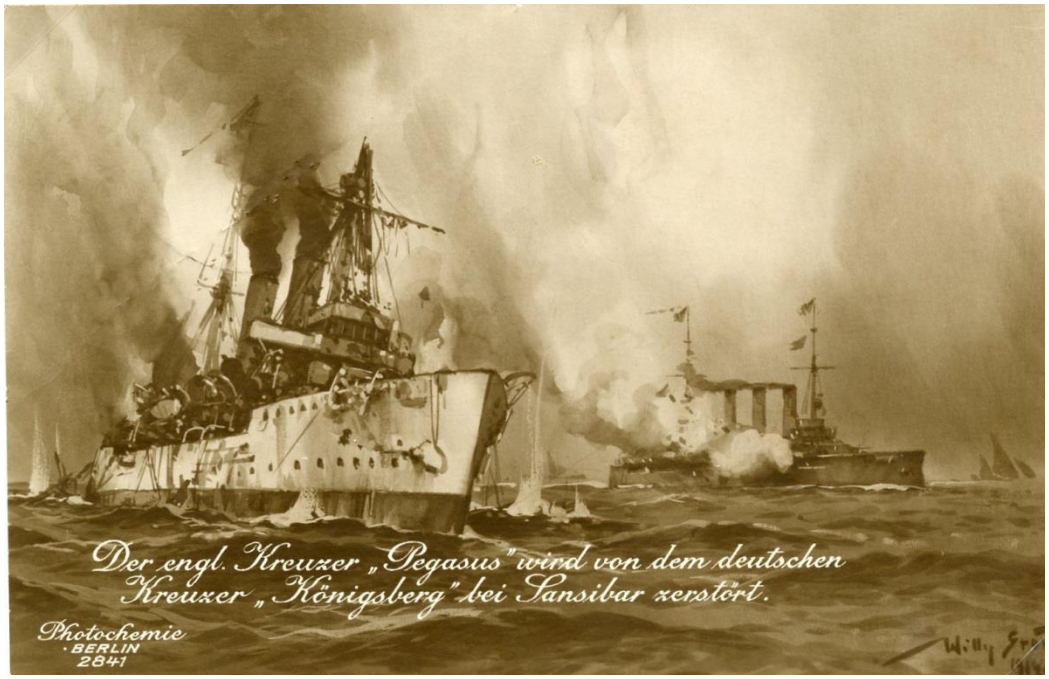
THE BLOCKADE OF THE 'KONIGSBERG'.

After the German light cruiser retreated to the delta of the Rufiji River, she was deemed to present a threat to British maritime trade in the Indian Ocean, and thus had to be contained. This involved maintaining a blockading squadron off the mouth of the Rufiji.

Censor 5D45 of the cruiser HMS Challenger on a Zanzibar postcard. The vessel arrived at the Rufiji River on 8th July 1915, 3 days after the first attack on the Konigsberg, and 3 days before its final destruction on 11th July.

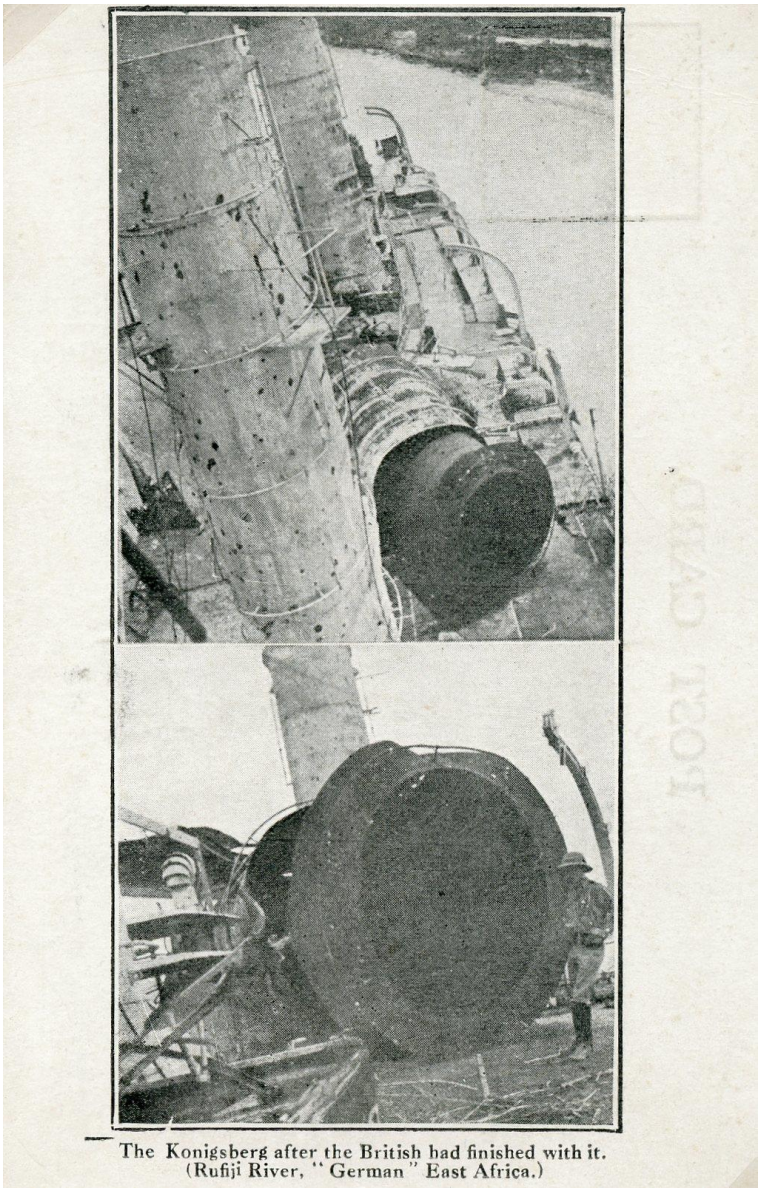


Censor 5D48 of the armed merchant cruiser HMS Laconia. The ship was deployed in the summer of 1915 to the Cape Station, and came under the orders of Admiral King-Hall at the blockade of the Konigsberg.



A postcard of German origin depicting the destruction of the British cruiser HMS Pegasus by the Konigsberg off the island of Zanzibar.

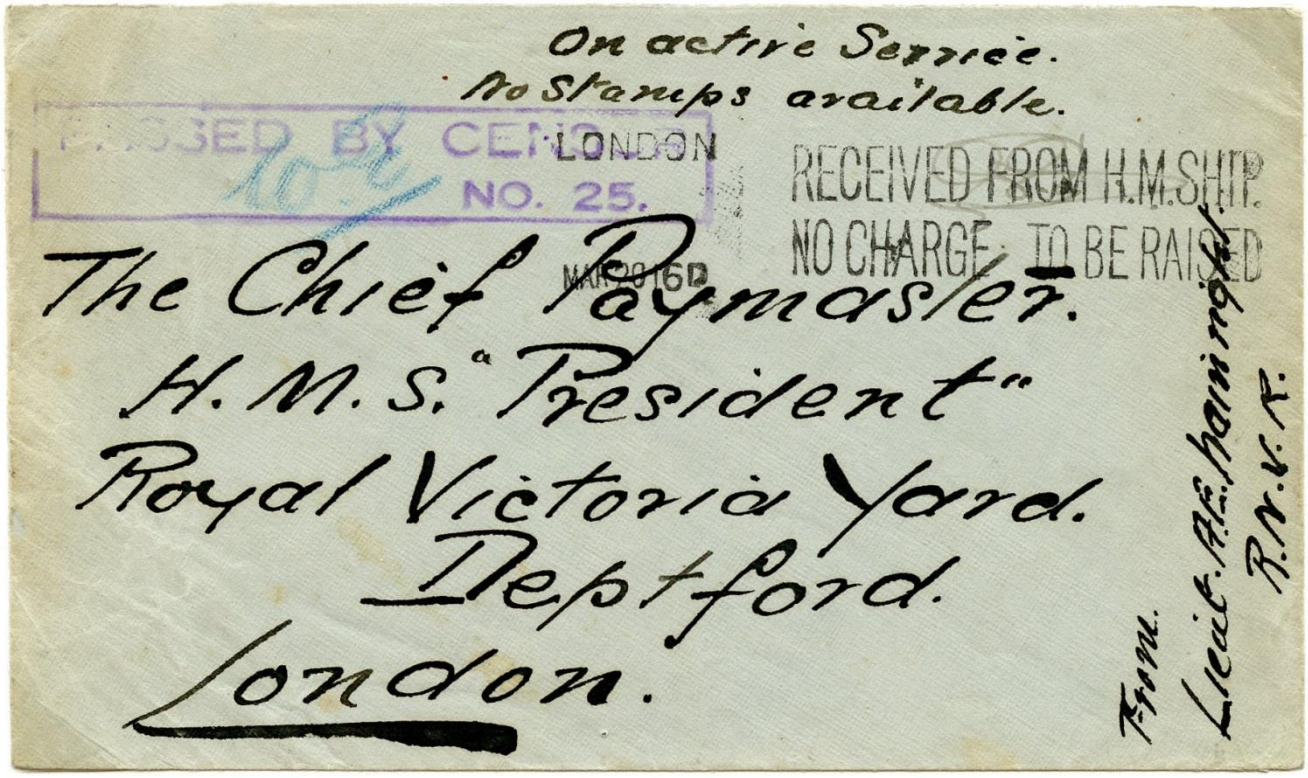
A postcard of British origin showing some of the damage done to the Konigsberg during its destruction by the Royal Navy.



The Konigsberg after the British had finished with it.
(Rufiji River, "German" East Africa.)

THE BRITISH TANGANYIKA SQUADRON.

A British naval party equipped with two gunboats was despatched to Lake Tanganyika to dispose of several lake steamers which had been armed by the Germans with equipment and personnel from the Konigsberg. The party arrived on the Lake in October 1915, and their task was completed by the spring of 1916.



This item was written by one of the officers, Lt.Wainwright, RNVR, and the censor mark is initialled by a fellow officer, Asst.Paymaster W.Eastwood, RNVR.

ZANZIBAR

This is from No.8 (Zanzibar) Squadron, formed in East Africa in March 1916. The unit is recorded as having returned to the UK in January 1918, so this item, dated in April 1918, is very late. Little is known about the deployment of this Squadron – even the Imperial War Museum confesses to a degree of ignorance.

This is an unusual item, address to a Miss Blackburne at Zanzibar, where the label was presumably applied. One interpretation is that she was interned by the Germans on the mainland (Deutch Ost Africa). Perhaps arrangements were in place for mail for such people to be forwarded after handling (in Zanzibar – hence the Zanzibar stamps) by authorities under (Royal) Naval administration – hence the naval censor (Gould 2A24) cancelling the stamps.

THE EASTERN FLEET, EAST AFRICA, WORLD WAR 2.

Confidential.

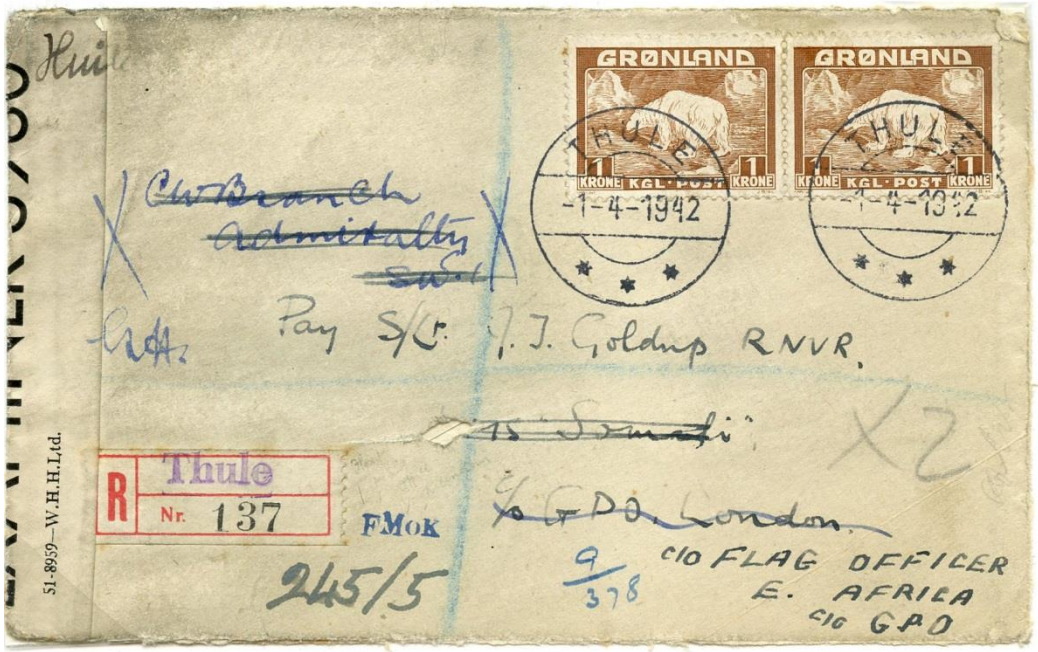
By Hand of Officer

Captain G. Olivier. A.D.C.

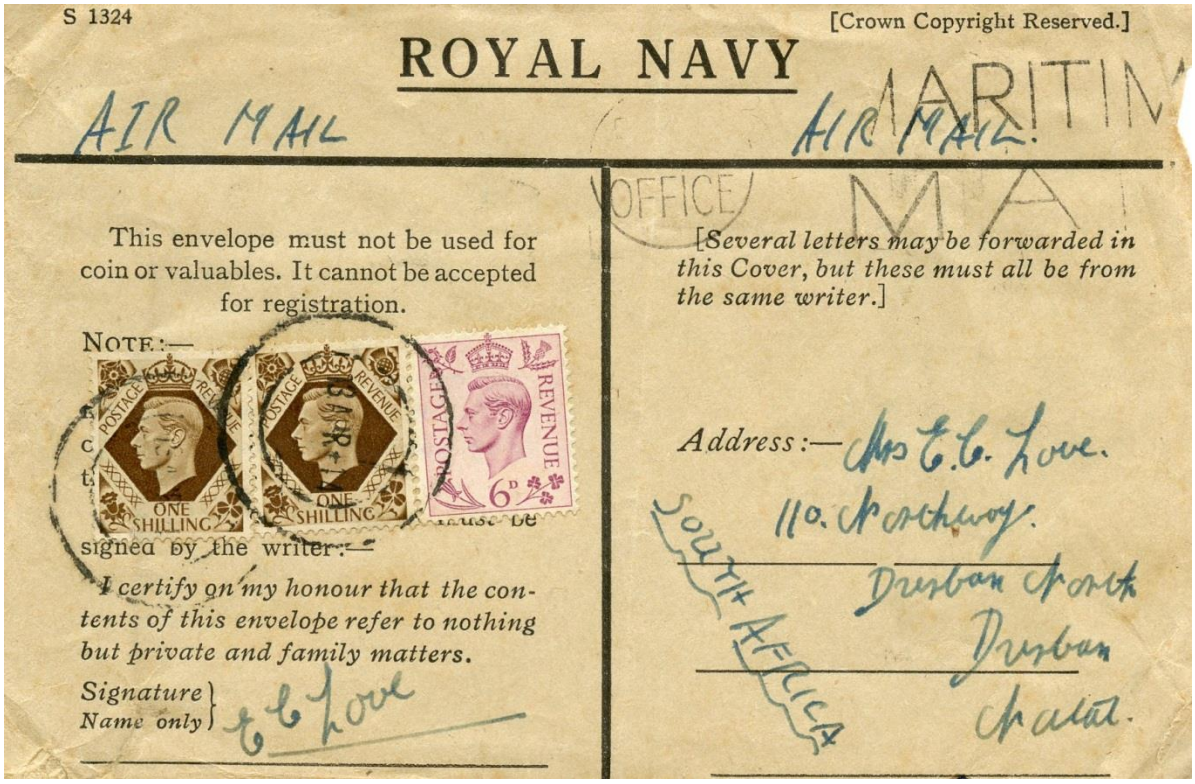
Government House

Nairobi

The Eastern Fleet moved its base from Colombo to Kilindini in May 1942. The C-in-C was Admiral Sir James Somerville, of Force H fame.



Over a year to travel from Greenland to Kilindini, via London and New York. (A well-recognised addressee).



S 1324

[Crown Copyright Reserved.]

ROYAL NAVY

AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL

MARITIME OFFICE MAIL

This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration.

NOTE:—

signed by the writer:—

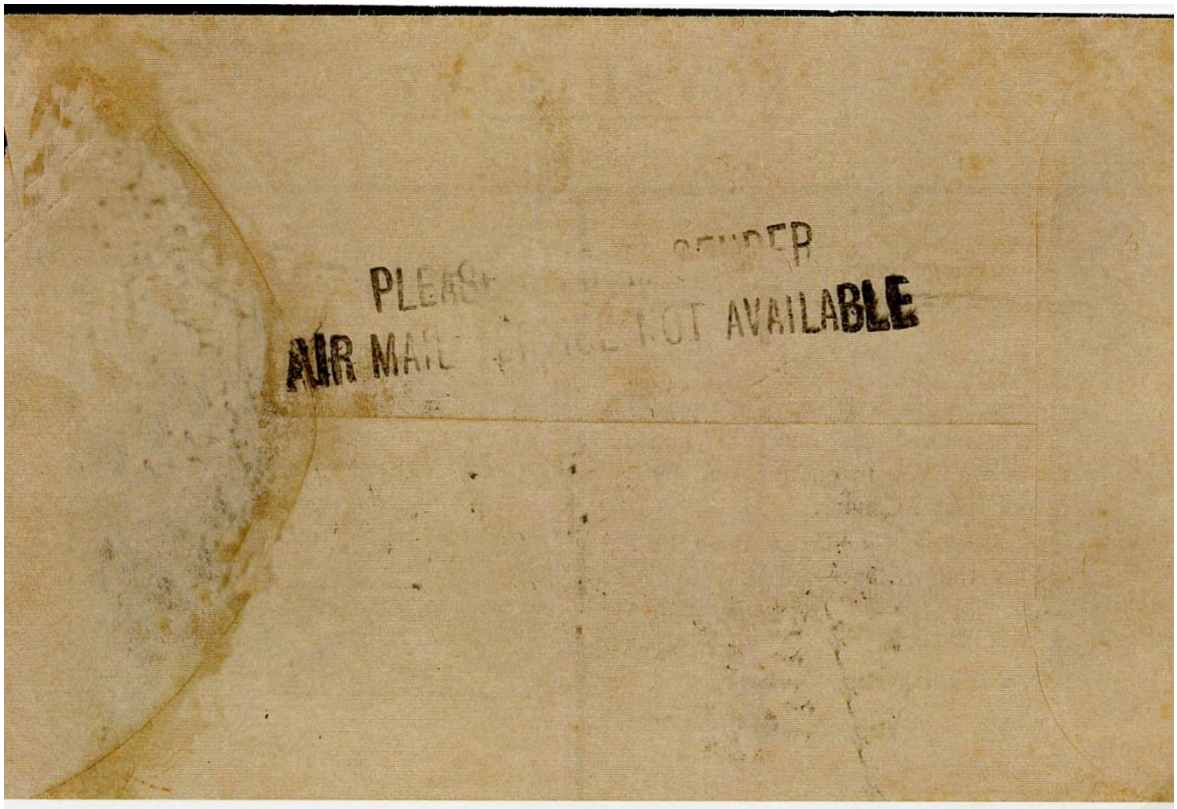
I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters.

Signature } E E Love
Name only }

[*Several letters may be forwarded in this Cover, but these must all be from the same writer.*]

Address:— Mrs E.E. Love.
110. Northway.
Durban North
Durban
Natal.

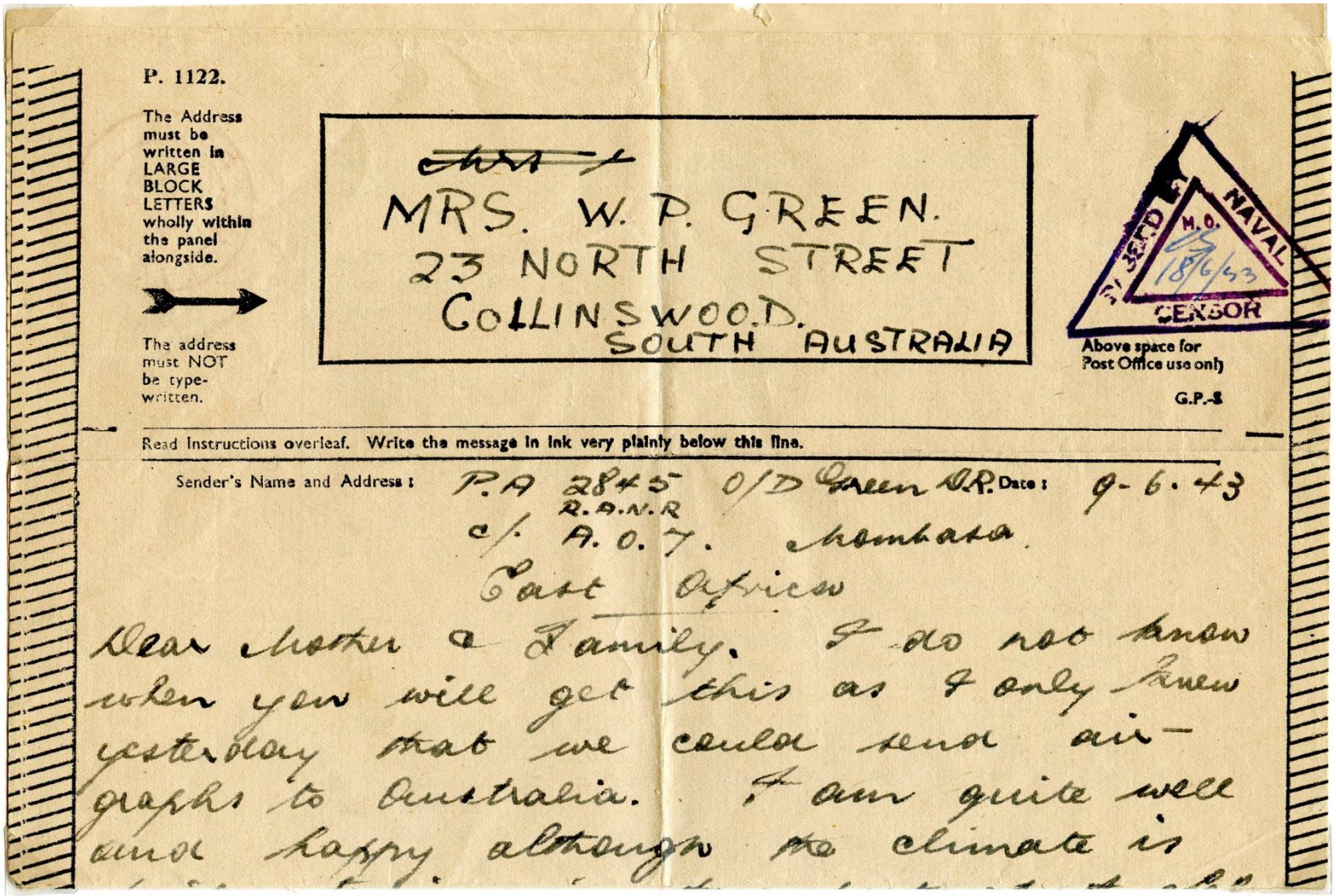
SOUTH AFRICA



PLEASE INFORM SENDER

AIR MAIL SERVICE NOT AVAILABLE

This has an East African style of naval postmark (the dumb d/r). The 2/6d franking would be correct for a double weight item. Why it went to South Africa via the UK (where it received the POMM mark) is a mystery – presumably it was a missort ? The PLEASE INFORM SENDER / AIR MAIL SERVICE NOT AVAILABLE mark was presumably applied in London.



P. 1122.

The Address must be written in LARGE BLOCK LETTERS wholly within the panel alongside.

The address must NOT be type-written.

MRS. W. P. GREEN.
23 NORTH STREET
COLLINSWOOD.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NAVAL CENSOR
H.O. 18/6/43

Above space for Post Office use only

G.P.-S

Read Instructions overleaf. Write the message in ink very plainly below this line.

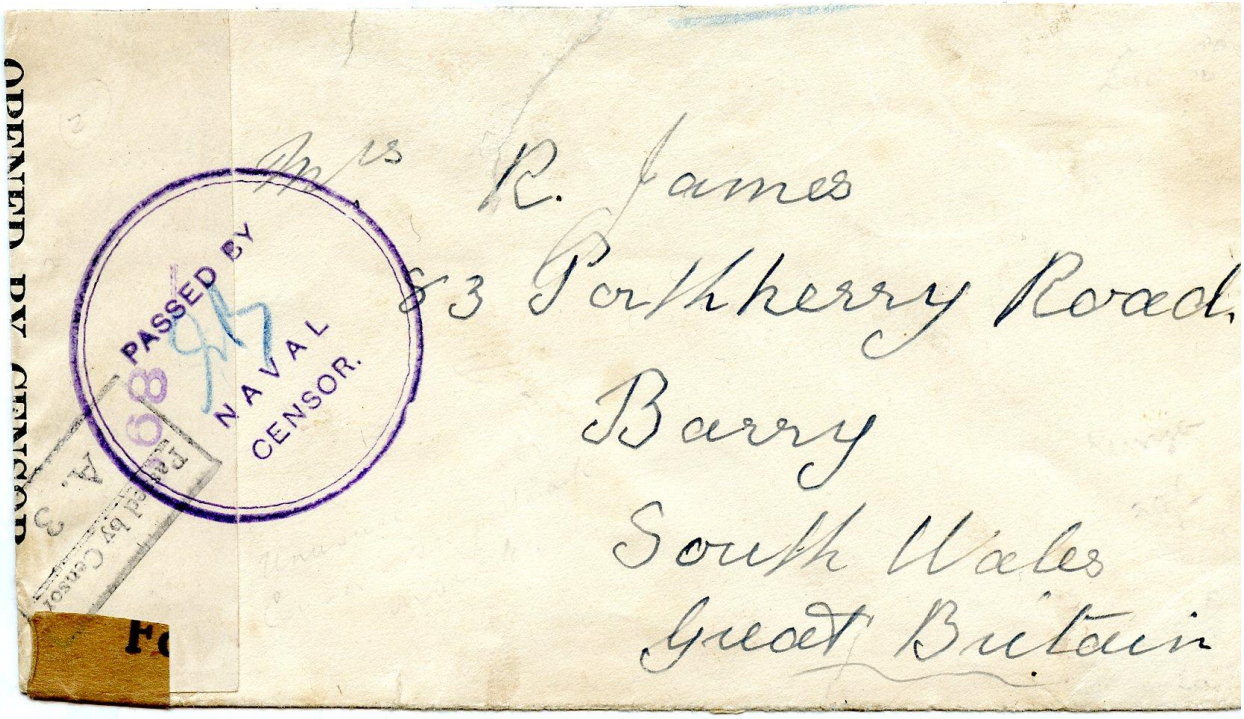
Sender's Name and Address: P.A 2845 O/D Green D.R. R.A.N.R c/. A.O.7. Mombasa. East Africa

Date: 9-6-43

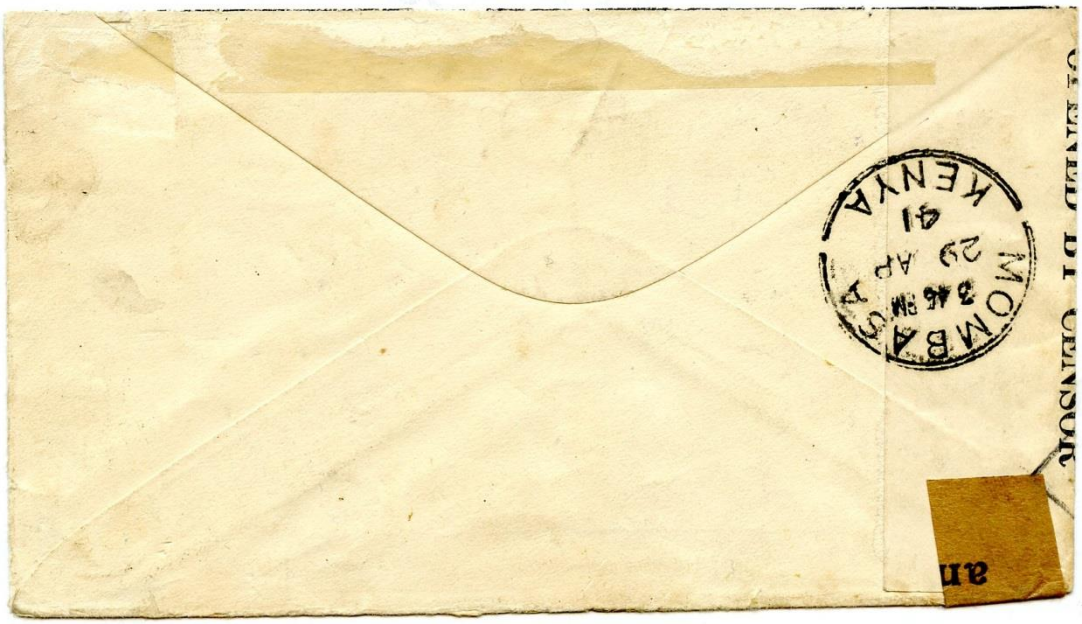
Dear Mother & Family. I do not know when you will get this as I only knew yesterday that we could send air-graphs to Australia. I am quite well and happy although the climate is

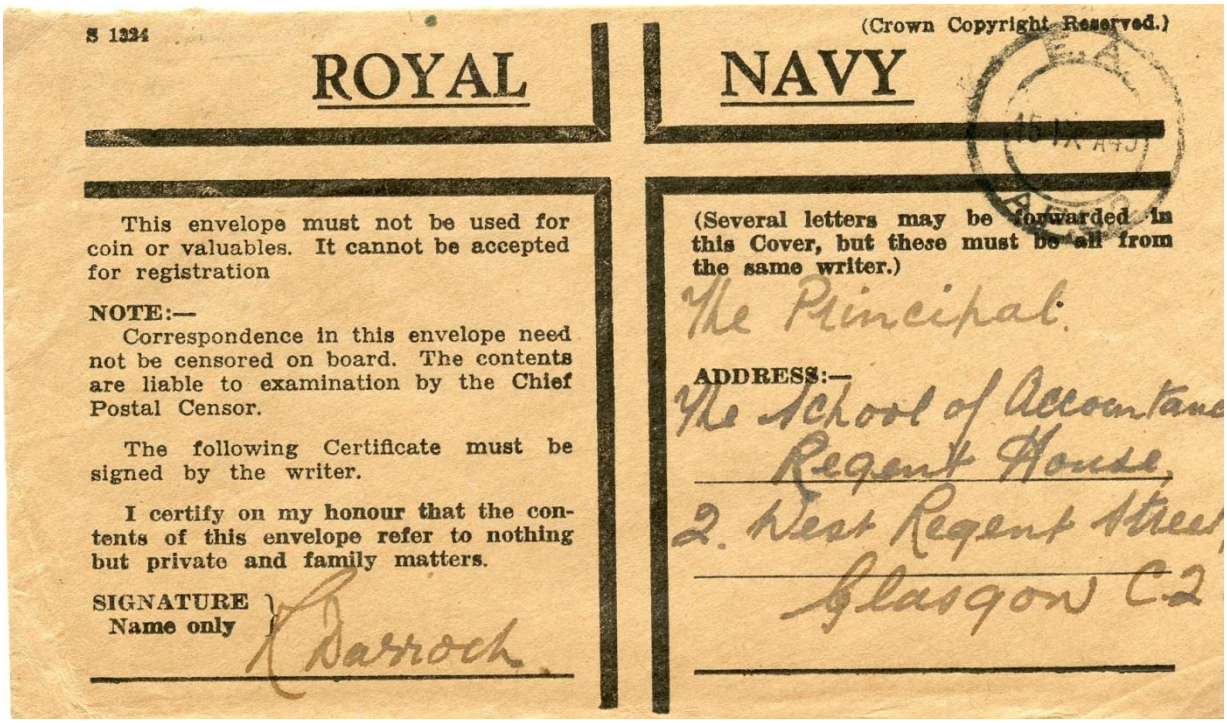
This is a South African type of airgraph form (SA3), dated 9.6.43, to Australia. The return address is Mombasa. The censor is dated 18.6.43, and the East African Postage Paid mark (on the reverse) is dated 21.6.43.

The message reads 'I only knew yesterday we could send airgraphs to Australia. Yet Keaton lists the first service from Nairobi as 25.8.43, and from Johannesburg 18.8.43. Presumably the form was sent as ordinary mail ?



Censor N450, postmarked Mombasa in April 1941, before the (active) war arrived in this part of the world.





S 1324

(Crown Copyright Reserved.)

ROYAL NAVY

This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration

NOTE:—
Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored on board. The contents are liable to examination by the Chief Postal Censor.

The following Certificate must be signed by the writer.

I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters.

SIGNATURE
Name only

(Several letters may be forwarded in this Cover, but these must be all from the same writer.)

The Principal.

ADDRESS:—
The School of Accountancy
Regent House,
2. West Regent Street,
Glasgow C.2

A less common printing of the RN Honour envelope, used from East Africa (APO 2) in September 1943.

An ad hoc postmark, thought to have been used at the Fleet Mail Office in Kilindini, on an item pre-paid at 4s70c for air mail to the USA.